

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

AFROUZ NIKMANESH,  
Plaintiff,

v.

WAL-MART STORES, INC., a  
Delaware corporation, and WAL-  
MART ASSOCIATES, INC., a  
Delaware corporation, and DOES 1  
through 10, inclusive,  
Defendant.

Case No. 8:15-cv-00202- JGB-JCG  
**Assigned to Hon. Jesus G. Bernal**  
**JUDGMENT ON JURY VERDICT**

[Proposed]

This action came on regularly for trial by jury on August 24, 2021, in Courtroom 1 of the United States District Court for the Central District of California, Eastern District, before the Honorable Jesus G. Bernal, Judge Presiding.

Plaintiff AFROUZ NIKMANESH was represented by Dayton B. Parcels III of Parcels Law Firm and Eric M. Epstein of ERIC M. EPSTEIN, APC. Defendants WALMART INC. (formerly known as Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.) and WAL-MART

1 ASSOCIATES, INC. were represented by Cheryl Johnson-Hartwell and Susan E.  
2 Coleman of BURKE, WILLIAMS & SORESENSEN, LLP.

3 A jury of eight (8) persons was duly impaneled and sworn. Witnesses were  
4 sworn and testified. After hearing the evidence, the jury was duly instructed by the  
5 Court. After hearing the arguments of counsel, the case was submitted to the jury.  
6 The jury deliberated and thereon duly returned the following special verdicts:  
7

8  
9 **Wrongful Discharge in Violation of Public Policy**

10  
11 **Question No. 1:** Did Walmart discharge Afrouz Nikmanesh's employment?  
12 Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_

13 If your answer to Question No. 1 is "Yes," answer Question No. 2. If you  
14 answered "No," go to Question No. 5.

15  
16 **Question No. 2:** Was Afrouz Nikmanesh's reporting or disclosure of  
17 information of Walmart overcharging Medicare customers over the age of 65 and  
18 persons under the age of 65 with disabilities for their medications, and/or not  
19 properly reporting the dispensement of controlled substances to the Department of  
20 Justice under the Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System  
21 program, a substantial motivating reason for Walmart's decision to discharge Afrouz  
22 Nikmanesh?

23 Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_

24 If your answer to Question No. 2 is "Yes," answer Question No. 3. If you  
25 answered "No," go to Question No. 5.

26  
27 **Question No. 3:** Was Afrouz Nikmanesh harmed by the discharge?  
28 Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_

1 If your answer to Question No. 3 is “Yes,” answer Question No. 4. If you  
2 answered “No,” go to Question No. 5.

3  
4 **Question No. 4:** Was the discharge a substantial factor in causing harm to  
5 Afrouz Nikmanesh?

6 Yes  X  No

7 Go to Question No. 5.

8  
9 **Whistleblower Protection – (Lab. Code §§ 1102.5, 1102.6)**

10  
11 **Question No. 5:** Did Afrouz Nikmanesh report or disclose to a person with  
12 authority over her or an employee with authority to investigate, discover, or correct  
13 legal violations or noncompliance, information of Walmart overcharging Medicare  
14 customers over the age of 65 and persons under the age of 65 with disabilities for  
15 their medications, and/or not properly reporting the dispensement of controlled  
16 substances to the Department of Justice under the Controlled Substance Utilization  
17 Review and Evaluation System program?

18 Yes  X  No

19 If your answer to Question No. 5 is “Yes,” answer Question No. 6. If you  
20 answered “No” to Question No. 5 and “Yes” to Questions 1-4, then answer Question  
21 No. 12. If you answered “No” to Question No. 5 and “No” to any of Questions 1-4,  
22 then stop here, answer no further questions, and have the foreperson sign and date  
23 this Special Verdict form at the end of the last page.

24  
25 **Question No. 6:** Did Afrouz Nikmanesh have reasonable cause to believe  
26 that the information disclosed a violation of a federal, state, or local statute, rule, or  
27 regulation?  
28

1 Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_

2 If your answer to Question No. 6 is “Yes,” answer Question No. 7. If you  
3 answered “No” to Question No. 6 and “No” to any of Questions 1-4, then stop here,  
4 answer no further questions, and have the foreperson sign and date this Special  
5 Verdict form at the end of the last page.

6  
7 **Question 7:** Did Walmart retaliate against Afrouz Nikmanesh by: (1) not  
8 promoting her, (2) giving her a poor performance evaluation, (3) not giving her a  
9 bonus, or (4) not permitting her to step down from her position as a Pharmacy  
10 Manager and continue to remain employed at Walmart as a Pharmacy Floater?

11 Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_

12 If your answer to Question No. 7 is “Yes,” answer Question No. 8. If you  
13 answered “No” to Question No. 7 and “No” to any of Questions 1-4, then stop here,  
14 answer no further questions, and have the foreperson sign and date this Special  
15 Verdict form at the end of the last page.

16  
17 **Question 8:** Was Afrouz Nikmanesh’s disclosure of information of Walmart  
18 overcharging Medicare customers over the age of 65 and persons under the age of  
19 65 with disabilities for their medications, and/or not properly reporting the  
20 dispensement of controlled substances to the Department of Justice under the  
21 Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System program a  
22 contributing factor in Walmart’s decision to discharge or retaliate against her by (1)  
23 not promoting her, (2) giving her a poor performance evaluation, (3) not giving her  
24 a bonus, or (4) not permitting her to step down from her position as a Pharmacy  
25 Manager and continue to remain employed at Walmart as a Pharmacy Floater?

26 Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_

27 If your answer to Question No. 8 is “Yes,” answer Question No. 9. If you  
28

1 answered “No” to Question No. 8 and “No” to any of Questions 1-4, then stop here,  
2 answer no further questions, and have the foreperson sign and date this Special  
3 Verdict form at the end of the last page.

4  
5 **Question No. 9:** Was Afrouz Nikmanesh harmed by Walmart (1) not  
6 promoting her, (2) giving her a poor performance evaluation, (3) not giving her a  
7 bonus, or (4) not permitting her to step down from her position as a Pharmacy  
8 Manager and continue to remain employed at Walmart as a Pharmacy Floater?

9 Yes  X  No

10 If your answer to Question No. 9 is “Yes,” answer Question No. 10. If you  
11 answered “No” to Question No. 9 and “No” to any of Questions 1-4, then stop here,  
12 answer no further questions, and have the foreperson sign and date this Special  
13 Verdict form at the end of the last page.

14  
15 **Question No. 10:** Was Walmart’s decision to: (1) not promote Afrouz  
16 Nikmanesh, (2) give her a poor performance evaluation, (3) not give her a bonus, or  
17 (4) not permit her to step down from her position as a Pharmacy Manager and  
18 continue to remain employed at Walmart as a Pharmacy Floater a substantial factor  
19 in causing harm to Afrouz Nikmanesh?

20 Yes  X  No

21 If your answer to Question No. 10 is “Yes,” answer Question No. 11. If you  
22 answered “No” to Question No. 10 and “No” to any of Questions 1-4, then stop here,  
23 answer no further questions, and have the foreperson sign and date this Special  
24 Verdict form at the end of the last page.

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26 **Question No. 11:** Has Walmart proved by clear and convincing evidence that  
27 it would have (1) not promoted Afrouz Nikmanesh, (2) given her a poor performance  
28

1 evaluation, (3) not given her a bonus, or (4) not permitted her to step down from her  
2 position as a Pharmacy Manager and continue to remain employed at Walmart as a  
3 Pharmacy Floater anyway for legitimate, independent reasons unrelated to her  
4 reporting or disclosure of information of Walmart overcharging Medicare customers  
5 over the age of 65 and persons under the age of 65 with disabilities for their  
6 medications, and/or not properly reporting the dispensement of controlled  
7 substances to the Department of Justice under the Controlled Substance Utilization  
8 Review and Evaluation System program?

9 Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No   X  

10 If your answer to Question Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 were all “Yes” OR your answer  
11 to Question Nos. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 were all “Yes,” AND your answer to Question  
12 No. 11 was “No”, answer Question No. 12 by adding up and stating the total amount  
13 of damages to be awarded to Afrouz Nikmanesh on all causes of action for which  
14 you found liability. (**Note:** If you decide that Afrouz Nikmanesh prevails on more  
15 than one of the above causes of action and if the damages she suffered on different  
16 causes of action are identical, count that damage only once. Do not award  
17 duplicative damages.)

18 If your answer to Question Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 were not all “Yes” AND your  
19 answer to Question Nos. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 were not all “Yes” and/or your answer  
20 to Question No. 11 was “Yes”, stop here, answer no further questions, and have the  
21 foreperson sign and date this Special Verdict form at the end of the last page.

22  
23 **Question No. 12:** What are Afrouz Nikmanesh’s damages:

24 Past economic loss: \$40,100.00

25 Past non-economic loss (these should not include damages intended for  
26 punishment, but should be limited to damages for loss of enjoyment of life, mental  
27 suffering, physical pain, or emotional distress): \$100,000.00

1 Future non-economic loss (these should not include damages intended for  
2 punishment, but should be limited to damages for loss of enjoyment of life, mental  
3 suffering, physical pain, or emotional distress): \$60,000.00

4 **TOTAL:** \$200,100.00

5 Go to Question No. 13.

6  
7 **Punitive Damages Questions**

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9 **Question No. 13:** Has Afrouz Nikmanesh proven by clear and convincing  
10 evidence one of the following:

- 11 a. That conduct constituting malice, oppression, or fraud was committed by an  
12 officer, director, or managing agent of Walmart who acted on behalf of  
13 Walmart; or  
14 b. That conduct constituting malice, oppression, or fraud was authorized by an  
15 officer, director, or managing agent of Walmart; or  
16 c. That an officer, director, or managing agent of Walmart knew of conduct  
17 constituting malice, oppression, or fraud and adopted or approved that conduct  
18 after it occurred.

19 Yes X No       

20 If you answered “Yes” to Question No. 14, you will return to the courtroom  
21 for a brief presentation of additional evidence before calculating the amount of  
22 punitive damages.

23  
24 **Question No. 14:** What amount of punitive damages, if any, do you award?  
25 \$27,100,000.00

26 It appearing that by reason of those special verdicts, Plaintiff is entitled to  
27 judgment against Defendants;  
28

1       **NOW, THEREFORE, IT ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED** that  
2 Plaintiff AFROUZ NIKMANESH recover from Defendants WALMART INC.  
3 (formerly known as Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.) and WAL-MART ASSOCIATES, INC.,  
4 jointly and severally, damages in the total sum of TWENTY SEVEN MILLION  
5 THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS  
6 (\$27,300,100.00), consisting of \$40,100.00 for past economic loss, \$100,000.00 for  
7 past non-economic loss, \$60,000.00 for future non-economic loss, and  
8 \$27,100,000.00 for punitive damages.

9       As the prevailing party Plaintiff may apply to the Court for an award of costs  
10 upon a proper Bill of Costs and an award of prejudgment interest and/or reasonable  
11 attorney's fees upon a proper motion in accordance with California law.

12 DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

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14 \_\_\_\_\_  
15 HON. JESUS G. BERNAL  
16 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
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